

Claims

1. A process for the preparation of a dried particulate blood product the particles whereof comprise anuclear blood cells in a protective agent, said process comprising:

obtaining a blood sample from a mammalian subject;
adding an anticoagulant to said sample;
concentrating the cells of said sample;
recovering a concentrate containing anuclear blood cells from said sample;
impregnating with said concentrate a particulate comprising a macromolecular protective material;
drying the impregnated particulate at a temperature in the range -20 to +120°C; and, optionally,
packaging the dried particulate in sealed containers.

2. A process as claimed in claim wherein said blood sample is obtained from a human subject.

3. A process as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein said macromolecular protective material contains a water-soluble macromolecular substance having a molecular weight above 2000 D.

4. A process as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein said macromolecular protective material contains macromolecules naturally occurring in the blood of the species from which the blood derives.

5. A process as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein said macromolecular protective material has a haemoglobin content of less than 1% wt relative to the haemoglobin content of erythrocytes.

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6. A process as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein the drying step is effected at a temperature between 1 and 10°C.

7. A process as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein the drying step involves fluidized bed drying.

8. A dried particulate blood product the particles whereof comprise anuclear blood cells in a macromolecular protective material.

9. A dried, reconstitutable, biological product comprising nucleus-containing eukaryotic cells in a macromolecular protective material.

10. A process for the preparation of a dried, reconstitutable biological product which process comprises impregnating a particulate macromolecular protective material with a liquid containing nucleus containing eukaryotic cells and drying the impregnated particulate.

11. A method of production of a transfusion liquid, said method comprising dispersing a dried particulate blood product according to claim 8 or claim 9 in a physiologically tolerable sterile aqueous solution and optionally treating the resulting dispersion to reduce the content therein of the protective material.

12. A kit comprising a first container containing a dried particulate blood product according to claim 8 or claim 9, and a second container containing a sterile physiologically tolerable aqueous reconstitution solution.

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13. A kit as claimed in claim 12 wherein said first container is disposed in said second container and is openable whereby to release its contents into said solution.